

No. 4989	號九十六百九千四第	日五十二月八年酉辛治局	HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 16th OCTOBER, 1878.	四拜禮	號六十月十英	港香	[Price \$24 PER MONTH.]
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all!

... 1 basket Iron Chain.
Es "Ava," 27th August, 1873.
in diamond, No-1/04 84 cases Wine.
ong, 24th September, 1873.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

THE interest and responsibility of the late Mr. CHARLES WILSON MURRAY, at our firm, ceased on the 15th August, 1873.

NOTICE.

THE business of the Undersigned will, from this date, be conducted under the name and style of EDWARD NORTON & CO.

EDWARD NORTON, at 1571 Hongkong, 22nd September, 1873.

THE interest and responsibility in our firm of Mr. JOHN H. SMITH ceased on the 30th of April last.

P. BLACKHURD & Co., at 708 Hongkong, 1st May, 1873.

M. R. A. S. COOK has this day been admitted a partner in our firm.

A. COOKES & Co., at 458 Pictorial, 1st January, 1873.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 16th, 1873.

Another Catholic Missionary murdered in Soochow. Such, in brief, is the news which is brought down from the North amidst other items; and so familiar have such occurrences become, that it scarcely attracts more attention than the ordinary hum-drum of local intelligence. But the importance of the event is such as should attract all for the most careful consideration. The story is the old old tale of a missionary murdered by the officials to the deed; and then the worn out explanation of an unfortunate outbreak of the populace caused by fanaticism, while in truth the people are either indifferent to the question of religion, or as seems to be the case in the present instance, actually in favour of the unfortunate man killed in their name. A barbarous murder of an individual man has been committed to satisfy the vindictive hatred of a wretched local official, and as usual, it seems the affair will be taken quite as a matter of course.

The question is how long this state of things is to be continued. By the treaties protection is promised to the propagators of the Christian faith, and yet we find that Missionaries in the interior are repeatedly murdered, and that scarcely any notice is taken of the fact. It is time that foreign nations came to a definite conclusion on the subject. If they are prepared to give up the treaty claims protecting the Missionaries, let them do so, and we shall at least know how the matter stands. But it is the extreme of inconsistency and impolicy to continue to adhere to a treaty stipulation which is habitually disregarded, and in the breach of which the mandarins themselves are the chief offenders. When the question was mooted at Peking, the Ministers wisely decided not to accept the terms for regulating Missionaries which were proposed by the Chinese, and which were clearly nothing more nor less than an almost undisguised declaration of intention to depart from the agreement of the treaties. It would seem that the old plan is being again resorted to of tempering Missionary movements by occasional assassinations. Doubtless after this plan has been carried on for a sufficiently long time, the proposal for regulating the Missionaries will be repeated, and no doubt the Chinese hope that their second attempt at satisfying the treaty will prove successful.

It is suggested that on night might be put to the murder of Missionaries by following the Chinese system, and insisting that the mandarin in the district where any such deed is committed should be held responsible for it. No doubt this would have the desired effect, if the Chinese Government would act with good faith in the matter. Unfortunately, experience has proved that they too frequently only pretend to punish the mandarins in matters where foreigners are concerned; and that, after the offending official has been sentenced to degradation or to banishment, he turns up in some other part of the country promoted, instead of punished. Pressure at Peking might do away with this to some extent, and it is no doubt the best step to take as a commencement; but if this prove ineffectual, there is nothing left but coercive measures. If once a party of marines were landed from a gunboat at the nearest approach to a place where an outrage had been committed, and a reprisal taken, we should hear no more about Missionaries being murdered. It would rarely be necessary to go to the length of actual hostilities. The presence of force to insist upon demands would prove sufficient, and the certainty that any repetition of the offence would lead at least to a considerable destruction of property would be sufficient to prevent it. Experience simply proves that in regard to matters of this description the Chinese Government is quite strong enough to assert its authority, and that its constant pleas of weakness are only a means of evading its responsibility in the hope of rendering the treaty concessions of none effect.

Yesterday morning, as the Canton steamer was leaving the wharf, a long coil of rope running around three or four times the vessel, with a view of some one climbing on board, it caught the acting crew and fell into the sea. The coil contained 50 coils of rope, and the Chinese were all day applying for it, but they only succeeded in bringing up a small length in their net.

In commenting upon the recent resignation of the non-official members of the Legislative Council in Singapore, the Straits Times says it would call Sir Harry Ord's attention to recent proceedings in the Legislative Council of Hongkong, which are a great contrast to those in Singapore. "In Hongkong," the paper says, "the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General are prepared to listen to the views of non-official members; but there a dissent is turned to all amendments from the Government side. We are glad to acknowledge that of late there has certainly been manifested a better spirit in this respect than in former days, but still when the recent discussion in the Hongkong Legislative Council as to the proposed extension of the non-official members was allowed in order to pursue the estimates, it is remembered, it must appear somewhat as if distance had not been so much to the view of the Singapore writer."

A proposal has been made to send a Chinese Mission to Cuba.

We learn by a telegram from Shanghai, that the Chinese Government has been brought to an end, by the refusal of the occupant of the Dragon Throne to receive it.

The steamer *Pusan* having had the four blades screw fixed at the Aberdeen Dock, returned last night. Her progress is now swift and smooth, and the other on the body of the steamer which did before with the long blades, three blades screw which she had a much better.

Two incidents were opened at the Government Civil Hospital yesterday, one on the body of an old Chinese, who committed suicide by throwing himself overboard near the Canton wharf, and the other on the body of a Chinese, who committed suicide by jumping from a balcony of a house in the city.

The manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company has been elected Chairman of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

It is the intention to inform you that I have received from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce the following telegraphic answer to your letter, dated the 9th of August—

"CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONGKONG. All communications have been caused from breakages by violence, not a single one by fault or neglect of the telegraph company. The telegraph line has been under the consideration of the board, but could not be passed without further investigation. The telegraph line has been under the consideration of the board, but could not be passed without further investigation."

The 80th Regiment unfortunately appear to have some very obstinate men amongst them, judging from the many who have had quarrels with the local people, and in some cases, have been killed. The regiment is now at the Canton wharf, and is expected to leave for Hongkong in a few days.

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HOME AND CHINA AFFAIRS.

(From our London Correspondent.)

Home politics continue almost stagnant. Domestic affairs are in a state of stagnation, and the revenue returns display a slight increase on the comparative receipts of last year. The revenue returns display a slight increase on the comparative receipts of last year. The revenue returns display a slight increase on the comparative receipts of last year.

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THE CANADIAN TRANS-PACIFIC ROUTE.

(As reported by the Times.)

The details which have been published of the proposed Canadian-Pacific route, appear to show that the scheme is by no means so difficult of accomplishment as was imagined when it was first mooted. The chief difficulty, in connection with the heavy snows, has, indeed, almost entirely vanished upon investigation, while the other engineering difficulties do not appear to be in any way such as cannot be surmounted. It appears that the isothermal lines running across the continent lessen the alternations of climate, which would otherwise have to be looked for; so that as it has been found that trains can run all the winter in the already existing parts of Canada, there is no reason to suppose that they will be able to do so across the Continent. The other engineering difficulties anticipated are spoken of as a mere nothing. "It appears," says the *New York Herald*, "that there are no engineering difficulties to speak of along the surveys made, and that the general character of the route will involve no extraordinary difficulties of the kind which have been anticipated. A magnificent field for the development of British Colonial enterprise will thus be, for the first time, made available; while a new and important route will be established to the Pacific Coast and to these parts. According to the estimate made by the Surveyors, which is the very best that has yet been made, the present Pacific route from Liverpool to Hongkong, would be closed upon 2,000 miles; and the mail transit between those ports could be accomplished, according to the estimate, in 31 days. This is probably a shorter time than could be expected on an average, but with a reduction of about two days railway traffic, and two days sea voyage, a very possible time, and the time of the journey would be reduced to 33 days, even supposing that the journey across the Pacific occupied the same time as at present, and it is estimated that this can be considerably reduced.

There seems, therefore, very good reason to conclude that the new trans-continental route may be made with that ease and speed, which will prevent its being regularly availed of; but the probability seems to be in its favour. It was expected that the Pacific route would have had this effect, but the time which they have taken in accomplishing the journey has proved much longer than was looked for. It is estimated that the route will be made with that ease and speed, which will prevent its being regularly availed of; but the probability seems to be in its favour. It was expected that the Pacific route would have had this effect, but the time which they have taken in accomplishing the journey has proved much longer than was looked for.

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is within their power, or often even by the faintest resort to force, which, in consequence of the responsibility which rests upon Chinese mandarins, who are held responsible for the conduct of their subjects, is a matter of great importance.

By interfering in disputes of this character between the mandarins and the people, Europeans take part in what are virtually civil wars, and although the fact may not be sufficiently recognized, precisely the same result is produced as if they were actually taking part in a rebellion of some magnitude. It is easy to conceive that a bitter feeling of resentment must be aroused against foreigners, when they are repeatedly found throwing the weight of their strength on the side of the oppressors of the mandarins. We cannot expect to maintain friendly relations with a nation, in which they are so constantly assisting the mandarins in their actions, and rendering every attempt at self-defence on their part abortive.

It is impossible to hold that such expeditions as the one to Hainan are in any way a just function of a Revenue Commissioner, or that they are a necessary consequence of a foreigner. Revenue Commissioners are meant to collect recognized taxes, not to lay war upon a district which has risen in opposition to an attempt at taxation which it feels, and often very justly feels, to be unwarranted. Such a step is calculated to excite the passions of the people, and to produce a permanent irritation in the minds of the natives, and will do more to injure the relations of the country than it will do to increase its revenue.

HONGKONG.

The new ordinance mandating the Law Courts have been promulgated, and the Hon. Mr. Parnell has been provisionally appointed judge, and Mr. Hayler attorney-general.

A small attack was made on the Chinese in their houses during greater part of the day, but was not altogether a pleasant one. We can only regret that the discipline of the Chinese army has not been improved that the men now expected will prove much superior to those who were referred to, and though we anticipate no worse consequences from their conduct than a temporary attack on the Chinese, it is a pity that they should have been so treated.

In the case of Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., the Hon. Mr. Parnell, reported in our issue, curators will, no doubt, be glad to learn that the authorities

